

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): An extensible schema stored as computer-executable instructions on a computer readable medium for defining a respective visual appearance for a plurality of computer system components in accordance with a user interface skin theme, the schema comprising:

a system schema file containing skin-theme metadata that describes allowable form and content of theme-authoring data that defines at least one display attribute for at least one user interface component, the system schema file including at least one definition of a plurality of user interface parts, wherein a theme packager uses the system schema file for validating contents of a theme-authoring file;

the system schema file including a definition of a plurality of user interface part states corresponding to at least a respective one of the user interface parts;

wherein at least one theme-aware control is displayed in accordance with the skin theme;

wherein at least one of the at least one theme-aware control is a custom theme-aware control that specifies allowable form and content of data in a custom schema file;

wherein the custom schema file includes at least one definition of a plurality of custom user interface parts;

wherein the custom schema file includes a definition of a plurality of user interface part states corresponding to at least a respective one of the custom user interface parts;

wherein the custom schema file is compiled into a dynamic link library of the custom theme-aware control; and

wherein the dynamic link library of the custom theme-aware control is registered as a path value in a registry key.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The schema of claim 8, wherein the theme packager attempts to call at least one dynamic link library to retrieve corresponding custom schema information.

Claim 10 (original): The schema of claim 9 wherein the theme packager automatically attempts to call a plurality of dynamic link libraries to retrieve respective custom theme schema information based upon a format of at least one of the system schema file and the custom schema file.

Claim 11 (original): The schema of claim 10 further comprising a theme loader for loading registered control dynamic link libraries when a packaged theme file is loaded into memory of the computer.

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).

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Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (cancelled).